



# We are family

The UK's first alternative families magazine

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## International surrogacy, an epic

2 surrogates, 3 countries,  
in-depth legal issues

## Focus on trans parents

Trans family heroes  
Conceiving when  
you're trans

## Conversion therapy

UK news - Survivors speak

## Twin vision

Being a twin, products for  
twins, TTTS

## How to holiday

Getting away for  
LGBT families

## After adoption

Safe to act up





## Georgios & Alex's story: an expert's response

Leading IVF physician,  
**Dr Brandon J. Bankowski,**  
**Oregon Reproductive Medicine**

**Dr Brandon J. Bankowski,**  
**MD MPH FACOG,** at  
world-renowned US  
fertility clinic **ORM,**  
gives his response  
to Georgios and  
Alexander's surrogacy  
experience, and  
addresses the medical  
and ethical issues  
raised.

"Georgios and Alexander's story  
is a tragic, but avoidable one.  
Despite heroic efforts, against  
insurmountable odds, Georgios  
and Alexander's lives have been  
forever impacted by medical professionals who seem to have  
not had their best interests at heart.

### Multiple embryo transfer

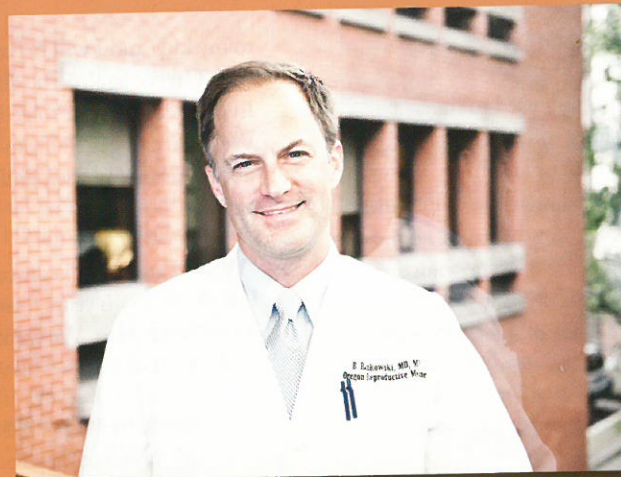
No clinic should ever transfer six embryos into anyone.  
Transferring twelve embryos into two surrogates simultaneously  
puts both women at great risk. We discuss with all our patients  
the real risks of multiple embryo transfers and pregnancies  
and, at most, we transfer two embryos at a time, and have a  
more than 90 per cent live birth rate per transfer doing so in  
recent years. Additionally, our extensively-screened egg donors  
are women with the highest fertility possible; we accept only 7  
per cent that apply.

US clinics voluntarily report their success rate statistics to,  
and are audited by, the Society for Assisted Reproductive  
Technology (SART), the national governing body for IVF and  
ART in the USA. These statistics are publicly accessible to all.  
The "best" clinics are those that achieve the highest success  
rates (live birth rates) with the lowest number of embryos  
transferred per treatment.

### Selective reduction

Conscientious fertility experts devote their lives to helping  
people become parents with 'an oath to 'do no harm.'. While  
selective reduction with even triplets is an emotionally difficult  
and ethically challenging concept for prospective parents and  
surrogates, selectively terminating ten fetuses is reprehensible.  
It is also extremely risky; in the US about 5% of pregnancies  
requiring selective reduction miscarry completely within two  
months. These losses are devastating. In our clinic at ORM,  
selective reduction would only be considered medically  
necessary if, when two embryos are transferred, both implant

successfully, and then one or more of them splits into identical  
twins or triplets – a very rare situation.



### Legal aspect

The clinic's failure to prepare  
Georgios for the legal  
difficulties as a single, gay,  
Greek father with Ukrainian-  
born children is also  
shocking. Their traumatic  
experience highlights the  
need for qualified specialist  
advice. We refer our patients  
to highly experienced  
surrogacy lawyers, both in  
the US, for establishing  
parentage, and in their  
home countries in order to  
successfully repatriate their  
children.

Hopefully from this story  
everyone can take away the positive message that creating  
a family through international donor egg surrogacy requires  
thorough research and planning and should only be  
undertaken in partnership with experienced and reputable  
clinics and agencies.

### Best care possible

At ORM we have the privilege of helping LGBT patients from  
across the world safely become parents through egg donor  
surrogacy. We believe that providing the best reproductive care  
includes achieving the highest possible success rates, offering  
technologically advanced genetic screening of embryos prior to  
transfer, and considering the best medical and legal interests  
of the intended parents, donor, surrogate, and the children  
before starting. Creating a family is one of the most important  
endeavours anyone can do in his/her lifetime. Putting your  
future family at risk is not an option. We are honoured to help  
our patients on their journeys to becoming parents and cherish  
our work with LGBT families across the globe."



Oregon Reproductive Medicine's dedicated team  
includes a representative in the UK providing personal  
support to UK intended parents looking to access  
surrogacy in the USA.

[www.oregonreproductivemedicine.com](http://www.oregonreproductivemedicine.com)  
Email: [ormuk@portlandivf.net](mailto:ormuk@portlandivf.net)

[wearefamilymagazine.co.uk](http://wearefamilymagazine.co.uk)



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